

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 08893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES COMMITTEE (COEC)

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1977

REF: (A) STATE 217624 DTG 121352Z SEO 77, (B) USNATO 8084
DTG 250905Z AUG 77

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SUMMARY: THE COEC AT ITS SEP 14, 1977 MEETING ADDRESSED
1) DPC PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX/CIMEX 79; 2) THE CENTRAL
PLANNING TEAM (CPT) FOR THE EXERCISE, AND 3) ARRANGEMENTS
FOR HILEX-8. DUE TO LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PART OF
MOST NATIONS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SOME NEW MATERIAL, NO
DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 8 BELOW.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE COEC MET ON SEP 14 TO CONSIDER ITEMS CONTAINED IN
AC/237-A/177. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO THE AGENDA
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AND ITS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

2. AGENDA ITEM I. THE CHAIRMAN (MORAN) NOTED THAT DUE TO
LATE RECEIPT OF THE FINAL EXERCISE SPECIFICATION (EXSPEC)
FOR WINTEX/CIMEX 79, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE DPC
APPROVAL OF THE EXSPEC PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER CPT MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR SEP 20 - OCT 7. THE CHAIRMAN HIGHLIGHTED

THE NEED TO PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE TO SHAPE FOR THEIR CPT AND THEREFORE REQUESTED THE COEC TO TAKE AT MINIMUM WORKING LEVEL DECISIONS REFERENCE THE EXSPEC. HE NOTED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD ADDRESS THE PAPER ON SEP 26 AND THAT THE SCEPC WOULD LOOK AT IT ON THE 27TH. COMMENT: WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE EXSPEC BUT WE ARE TOLD THAT THE CHANGES FROM THE ORIGINAL ARE MINOR AND INVOLVE PRIMARILY A REORDERING OF PARAGRAPHS. WE WILL FORWARD THE EXSPEC UPON RECEIPT. END COMMENT.

3. US REP (MCKENNEY) NOTED US APPROVAL OF THE EXSPEC AS PRESENTED IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION BY THE DPC, ESPECIALLY DURING THE REINFORCEMENT PHASE OF THE EXERCISE. MOST NATIONS HAD LITTLE OR NO COMMENT CONCERNING THE EXSPEC. CHANGES WHICH WERE SUGGESTED WERE MINOR AND EDITORIAL IN NATURE. THE UK REP (LEGGE) STATED THAT HE HAD SEVERAL DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE POLITICAL SETTING BUT THAT HE WOULD CIRCULATE THESE COMMENTS IN WRITING LATER.

4. PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE AMOUNT OF DPC PLAY. DRAWING ON REFTELS, US REP MADE A STRONG PITCH IN SUPPORT OF MAXIMUM DPC PARTICIPATION. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION ON DPC PLAY PRIOR TO THE CPT SO THAT THE EXERCISE OPERATION ORDER COULD BE APPROPRIATELY TAILORED. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE REP (VURAL) STATED
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THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WANTED TO DELAY DECISION ON DPC/PERMREP INVOLVEMENT UNTIL THE POLITICAL SCENARIO WAS COMPLETED. ALL REPS DISAGREED WITH THIS SUGGESTION. NO DECISION WAS TAKEN ON THE EXTENT OF DPC/PERMREP PLAY DUE TO LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED AND THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT ON SEP 27. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT MOST NATIONS ARE GOING TO AGREE TO PLAY AT DPC/PERMREP LEVEL OUTLINED IN THE EXSPEC. INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTELS PROVIDE ADEQUATE GUIDANCE FOR THE SEP 27 MEETING. END COMMENT.

5. IN REGARD TO NATIONAL INPUT DURING PERIODS WHEN THE DPC AT PERMREP LEVEL DOES NOT PLAY, THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THERE WERE ESSENTIALLY TWO ALTERNATIVES: TO PLAY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL STAFF RESPONSE CELL WITHOUT NATIONAL INPUT, OR TO PLAY WITH A "MINI-DPC" WHICH WOULD UTILIZE NATIONAL INPUT. US REP STATED THAT THE MINI-DPC APPROACH WOULD BE PREFERABLE SINCE NATIONAL CAPITALS AND DELEGATIONS AT NATO WOULD BE GEARED UP FOR THE EXERCISE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PLAY. THE CONSENSUS SEEMED TO FAVOR THIS APPROACH, THOUGH CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS VOICED SOME RESERVATION BECAUSE OF "LIMITED PERSONNEL RESOURCES".

COMMENT: WE INTEND TO PRESS FOR THE MINI-DPC APPROACH AT THE SEP 27 MEETING. END COMMENT.

6. THE SHAPE REP (BAGNALL) OUTLINED THE PLANS FOR THE SHAPE CPT. THE PROGRAM TRACKS WITH WHAT WE HAD BEEN TOLD PREVIOUSLY, THAT IS, THERE WILL BE A TWO-DAY INDOCTRINATION SESSION FOLLOWED BY DRAFTING SESSIONS. THE PRODUCT IS TO BE A DRAFT EXERCISE OPERATIONS ORDER WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OVER THE COMING MONTHS. POLITICAL COMMITTEE REP NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL DIVISION WOULD SEND AN EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CPT BUT THAT THE POLITICAL DIVISION MAY

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SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE COEC.

7. AGENDA ITEM II. WORKING PAPER AC/237-WP/122 WAS ADDRESSED. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CONCERNED COSTS OF THE EXERCISE. HE STATED THAT IN PARAGRAPH 21 THE EXPENDITURE OF BF 850,000 SHOULD BE CHANGED TO BF 965,000. ADDITIONALLY, HE NOTED THAT UNDER RECOMMENDATIONS, A THIRD RECOMMENDATION TO CURTAIL OTHER HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXERCISE WAS OMITTED AND WOULD BE ADDED.

8. CHAIRMAN THEN CIRCULATED THE TEXT FOR SECTION VIII OF THE WORKING PAPER WHICH CONCERNS PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAY. THE TEXT FOLLOWS IN PARA 9 BELOW. COMMENT:

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PLAY OF PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AS OUTLINED IN THE DRAFT IS VERY DESIRABLE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE NATO PRESS SERVICE IN ITS HANDLING OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DISSEMINATION. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IN OUR INTEREST
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TO PROVIDE ONE OR TWO HIGHLY QUALIFIED PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS TO SERVE AS PSEUDO-PRESS REPORTERS. END
COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB
SEP 26, 1977.

9. BEGIN TEXT (TO BE INSERTED IN AC/237-WP/122):

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VIII. PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAY

17. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN DISCUSSING THE REPORT ON HILEX-7, THE DPC AGREED THAT, IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION POLICY, PROCEDURES SHOULD BE ELABORATED WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE RAPID AND DIRECT EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION BOTH AMONG NATIONAL INFORMATION AUTHORITIES AND BETWEEN THOSE AUTHORITIES AND NATO. IT INVITED THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF ELABORATING PROCEDURES TO THIS EFFECT. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE IS PRESENTLY ADDRESSING THIS QUESTION.

18. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT, SUBJECT TO ANY CHANGES WHICH MAY BE AGREED TO THE EXISTING POLICY DOCUMENT IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAY DURING THE EXERCISE BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF THAT EXISTING DOCUMENT (POLADS(75)10(REVISED) AND ALONG THE SAME LINES AS IN HILEX-7. THIS WOULD IMPLY THAT:

(A) PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT WISH TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THEIR STAFF WITH EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM OR PUBLIC RELATIONS;

(B) THE NATO SPOKESMAN, ACTING AS GENERAL COORDINATOR, WOULD CONDUCT PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY PLAY, FACING, IN A PRESS ROOM, AN AUDIENCE OF SPECIALLY-SELECTED
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OFFICIALS OF NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICES SIMULATING JOURNALISTS; AND

(C) IN CAPITALS AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SIMULATED PRESS

COVERAGE ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION DIFFUSED FROM
BRUSSELS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

AS REGARDS (B) ABOVE, SUITABLY "SANITISED" INFORMATION
WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICIALS SIMULATING JOURNALISTS
BY THE OFFICIALS CONDUCTING THE PRESS CONFERENCES.

END TEXT.BENNETT

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